

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 QUITO 05453 201029Z

44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 IO-14 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10

SCI-06 OMB-01 PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01 L-03 AID-20 /119 W

----- 035746

R 192214Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASH 8930

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 5453

FOLLOWING TEL SENT ACTION QUITO 10/16/73 RPTD HERE FOR YOUR  
ACTION  
QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUAYAQUIL 1100

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJ: MAJOR DRUG TRAFFIKER ESCAPES FROM GUAYAQUIL JAIL

1. FOLLOWING IS FOR TRANSMISSION TO DEPARTMENT WITH EMBASSY  
COMMENT IF EMBASSY THINKS APPROPRIATE.

2. MAJOR NARCOTICS TRAFFICKER CARLOS RAMIREZ VARGAS, BETTER KNOWN  
AS "RAMILLETE", ESCAPED FROM MODEL PENITENTIARY OF THE COAST ON  
OCTOBER 13. PRESENT WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN, BUT LOCAL PRESS SPECULATES  
HE HAS DEPARTED ECUADOR BY AIR FOR COLOMBIA OR BY SEA FOR CENTRAL  
AMERICA.

3. RAMIREZ, REGARDED BY PRESS AS PRINCIPAL FIGURE IN "NATIONAL AND  
INTERNATIONAL DRUG MAFFIA" ESCAPED WITH ASSISTANCE OF MISTRESS  
YOLANDA UREL BRIONES (BELIEVED TO HAVE FLED WITH RAMIREZ) AND  
SEVERAL PRISON EMPLOYEES. RAMIREZ REPORTED TO HAVE PAID 5 MILLION  
SUCRES (US \$202,429.15) TO SIX PRISON EMPLOYEES TO ASSIST ESCAPE.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 QUITO 05453 201029Z

THESE EMPLOYEES NOW DETAINED FOR QUESTIONING.

4. THIS SECOND ESCAPE FROM INCARCERATION FOR RAMIREZ. FIRST FLIGHT TOOK PLACE MAY 8, 1972, AFTER HE REPORTEDLY PAID TWO MARINE CORPS SERGEANTS US \$40,000 FOR THEIR COMPLICITY. RAMIREZ RECAPTURED IN GUAYAQUIL AFTER 5 DAYS LIBERTY.

5. FIRST PURPOSE THIS MESSAGE IS TO REPORT THAT RAMIREZ IS AT LARGE. SECOND PURPOSE IS TO UNDERSCORE DIFFICULTY IN ECUADOR OF OBTAINING CONVICTION AND EXTENDED INCARCERATION OF MAJOR DRUG TRAFFICKERS. AMOUNT OF MONEY AT THEIR DISPOSAL SO GREAT AND SALARIES OF POLICE, PRISON OFFICIALS , AND OTHER AUTHORITIES ARE SO LOW THAT IT NOT DIFFICULT TO BUY FREEDOM FROM PROSECUTION OR TO PURCHASE LIBERTY IF JAILED. ARRESTS OF MAJOR DRUG FIGURES ARE ANNOUNCED IN PRESS BUT THEIR ARRESTS OFTEN ONLY PRELUDE TO ECONOMIC NEGOTIATIONS FOR FREEDOM RATHER THAN FIRST STEP IN ORDERLY AND JUST JUDICIAL PROCESS.

DEWITT  
UNQUOTE  
BREWSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DRUG CONTROL, REFUGEES, ARRESTS, PENAL INSTITUTIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 19 OCT 1973  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** garlanwa  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1973QUITO05453  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS BREWSTER  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** n/a  
**From:** QUITO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1973/newtext/t19731021/aaaaapho.tel  
**Line Count:** 80  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** garlanwa  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 18 JAN 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <18-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <08 FEB 2002 by garlanwa>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** MAJOR DRUG TRAFFIKER ESCAPES FROM GUAYAQUIL JAIL  
**TAGS:** SNAR, (VARGAS, CARLOS RAMIREZ)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005